

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-11 H-01 INR-10 INT-05  
L-03 NSAE-00 OMB-01 PM-05 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15  
STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 DOEE-00 PA-01 SSM-03 NEAE-00 /110 W  
-----089819 131443Z /50

O 131420Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6600  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 08068

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ENRG, PBOR, IS, EG, US  
SUBJ: AMOCO INCIDENT - STATUS REPORT FOR MARCH 13

1. AMOCO/EGYPT PRESIDENT RUBASH BRIEFED US AT 1330 HOURS  
MARCH 13 ON CURRENT STATE OF PLAY AT RIG 511 IN GULF  
OF SUEZ. RIG IS STILL DRILLING WITH DEPTH OF PIPE ABOUT  
600 FEET. IT NOW APPEARS, HOWEVER, THAT TWO BOATS WHICH  
OCCUPY EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MARKER BUOYS ARE  
ISRAELI GUNBOATS AND THAT THERE ARE TWO OTHER GUNBOATS  
PATROLLING AREA EAST OF RIG. THIS WOULD INDICATE,  
ACCORDING AMOCO, THAT ISRAELIS HAVE DECIDED THAT, WHILE  
RIG ITSELF IS WEST OF LINE WHICH THEY DEFINED BY THREE  
SETS OF COORDINATES MARCH 9, POSSIBLY AS MANY AS 3 OF  
THE SHIP'S ANCHORS ARE EAST OF THAT LINE.

2. RUBASH THEN DESCRIBED EXPERIENCE OVER PAST SEVERAL  
DAYS OF DRILLING FOREMAN, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM RIG.  
ACCORDING INITIAL REPORTS, THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE ISRAELI  
PRESSURE EXERTED ON RIG PERSONNEL NOT TO SET ANCHORS IN  
PROCESS OF COMPLETING DRILLING PREPARATIONS. FOREMAN,  
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WHO IS DESCRIBED BY RUBASH AS IN STATE OF EMOTIONAL  
COLLAPSE, WAS EVIDENTLY SUBJECTED TO PERSONAL THREATS BY  
ISRAELI PATROL BOAT CAPTAINS, WHO TOOK PICTURES OF HIM  
AND RECORDED EXCHANGES HE HAD WITH ISRAELI NAVAL  
PERSONNEL. DRILLING FOREMAN MANAGED, HOWEVER, TO COMPLETE  
SETTING OF ANCHORS AND ONLY WHEN STANDARD MARKER BUOYS  
WERE PLACED AND WORKBOATS RETREATED DID ISRAELIS MOVE TO

OCCUPY TWO OF THE SITES. RUBASH POINTED OUT THAT DUE TO SIZE AND TENSION OF ANCHORS THERE IS NO WAY THAT ISRAELI PATROL BOATS COULD RELEASE OR RAISE THEM SHORT OF USING UNDER WATER DETONATIONS TO BREAK CHAINS. TO HIS KNOWLEDGE, RUBASH SAID, THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY ISRAELI CONTACT WITH RIG ITSELF SINCE IT MOVED ONTO LOCATION MARCH 10. ONCE DRILLING FOREMAN HAS RECOVERED AND IS ABLE TO DISCUSS EVENTS OF PAST FEW DAYS, RUBASH INTENDS TO DEBRIEF HIM FULLY AND, IN TURN, WILL INFORM US.

3. COMMENT: IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE PRESSURE BY ISRAELI GUNBOATS ON THOSE SETTING ANCHORS THAN AMOCO REPORTED TO US OVER PAST FEW DAYS. WHILE RUBASH DECLINED TO SAY THAT DRILLING FOREMAN WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO DO SO, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT WERE IT NOT FOR PERSEVERENCE OF FOREMAN AND WORKBOAT CAPTAINS, RIG 511 WOULD NOT BE IN POSITION AND DRILLING AT THIS TIME. RUBASH CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN THAT ALL ANCHORS ARE WEST OF TRADITIONALLY DRAWN "MEDIAN LINE" AND THAT IN ABSENCE OF ANY AGREED DEFINITION OF "MEDIAN LINE" THIS IS BEST AMOCO CAN BE EXPECTED TO DO. (SEE SEPTTEL FOR DISCUSSION VS ISRAELI DEFINITION OF GULF OF SUEZ "MEDIANO S FNE".)

APPARENTLY ISRAELIS HAVE INDEED DECIDED THAT DRILLING RIG ITSELF IS WEST OF THEIR MEDIAN LINE AND  
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THAT IN THE FACE OF PERSISTENCE THEY COULD NOT INTIMIDATE DRILLING FOREMAN INTO STOPPING WORK SETTING ANCHORS. THEIR ONLY RECOURSE THEREFORE SEEMINGLY IS TO CONTINUE TO OBSERVE DRILLING WHICH MAY LAST FOR SEVERAL WEEKS BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE. EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TERRITORIAL WATERS, DISPUTES, EXPLORATORY DRILLING  
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**Draft Date:** 13 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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